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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP
INTELLIGENCE REPORT

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COUNTRY China

DATE: 146326

INFO. See below

SUBJECT Economic and Political Information: Purchase of Mercury, Mukden

DIST. 15 January 1948

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SUPPLEMENT

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EVALUATE

22 August 1947

1. Source knows personally several Chinese engaged in the selling of mercury. In August 1947, these sellers approached source complaining they were having difficulty in selling their mercury but that they felt there was a large buyer in Mukden whom they could not identify. Source was unable to assist these sellers and asked them why they could not sell mercury to their former buyers. The sellers would say only that these former buyers were no longer interested.

29 August 1947

2. Mercury is being purchased by the Chung Hsing Trading Company, which is on the third floor of the Hongkong-Shanghai Bank Building. Mr. YU Shu-yuan, the manager and contact man for purchases, offers NEC \$790,000 per ton. Source knows of a friend who has approximately 100 tons of mercury for sale.

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3. There are in Mukden large quantities of good quality mercury for sale at approximately NEC \$800,000 per ton. These stocks of mercury were looted from the Japanese in 1945.

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13 October 1947

4. Recently there have been a number of negotiations for the purchase of mercury in Mukden. After negotiations have been finished, Soviet representatives usually appear; their participation is often protested by those selling the mercury.

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5. Since the end of 1946, the purchasers of tungsten in Mukden have been predominantly Soviet. A Korean by the Japanese name of Matsuyama (first name unknown) is the Soviets' agent for these purchases. This person acts for a certain Soviet citizen who lives in one of the apartments above the Tchurin-operated cafe-restaurant. Note: These apartments are operated solely for the use of employees of Tchurin Company, which owns the building, formerly known as the Dalnastrans Building, on Chungshan Road.)

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